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# O S H U A.

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## S A C R E D D R A M A.

JOSHUA.  
CALEB.  
OTHNIEL.

ACHSAH,  
Angel.  
Chorus.

High-Priest, Priests, Chiefs, Elders and Attendants.

### P A R T I.

Joshua, Caleb, Othniel, Achsah, High-Priest,  
Priests, Chiefs, and Elders of Israel.

*Chorus of Israelites after their miraculous Passage  
of the Jordan, and Entrance into Canaan.*

**Y**E sons of Israel, ev'ry tribe attend,  
Let grateful songs, and hymns to heav'n  
ascend:

In Gilgal, and on Jordan's banks proclaim  
One first, one great, one Lord Jehovah's name.

*Josh.* Behold, my friends, what vast rewards are  
given.

To all the just, who place their faith in heav'n!  
Oh! had your Sires obey'd divine command,  
They too, like you, had reach'd the promis'd land;  
But rebels to the laws th' Almighty gave,  
They in the desert met an early grave.

*Cal.* O Joshua, both to rule and blest ordain'd;  
When Moies the eternal mansions gain'd,  
What boundless gratitude to Heav'n we owe,  
Who did, in thee, a chief to wife bestow?  
Courage, and conduct shine in thee compleat,  
Justice and mercy fill thy judgment-seat.

#### A I R.

O first in wisdom, first in pow'r,

Jehovah ev'ry blessing show'r

Around thy sacred head;

The neighb'ring realms with envy see,

The happiness and liberty,

O'er all thy people spread.

*Ach.* Matrons, and virgins, with unwear'd pray'r,  
Solicit Heav'n for thee their fav'rite care.

The first lawgiver broke th' Egyptian chain;

And, by thy hallow'd aid, we Canaan gain.

#### A I R.

Oh! who can tell, Oh! who can hear

Of Egypt, and not shed a tear;

Or, who will not on Jordan smile,  
Releas'd from bondage on the Nile.

*Josh.* Caleb, attend to all I now prescribe;  
One righteous man select from ev'ry tribe,  
To bear twelve stones from the divided flood,  
Where the priests feet, and holy covenant stood;  
In Gilgal place them; hence twelve more provide,  
And fix them in the bosom of the tide:  
These when our sons shall view with curious eye,  
Thus the historic columns shall reply.

#### C H O R U S.

To long posterity we here record  
The wond'rous passage, and the land restor'd:  
In wat'ry heaps affrighted Jordan stood,  
And backward to the fountain roll'd his flood.  
So long the memory shall last  
Of all the tender mercies past.

#### A I R.

*Josh.* While Kedron's brook to Jordan's stream  
It's silver tribute pays;  
Or while the glorious sun shall beam  
On Canaan golden rays;  
So long the memory shall last  
Of all the tender mercies past.

#### S C E N E II. *Angel appearing.*

*Orb.* But, who is he?—Tremendous to behold!  
A form divine in panoply of gold!  
With dignity of mien, and stately grace,  
He moves in solemn, slow, majestic pace;  
His auburn locks his comely shoulders spread,  
A sword his hand, a helmet fits his head;  
His warlike visage, and his sparkling eye,  
Bespeak a hero or an angel nigh.

#### A I R.

Awful, pleasing being, say,  
If from Heav'n thou wing'st thy way?

A.

The fruits their flavour, flow'rs their odours prove,  
And here we taste true liberty and love.

*Josh.* Low on the earth, Oh! prostrate let me bend,  
And thy behests with reverence attend.

D U E T.

*Orb.* The trumpet calls; now Jericho shall know  
What 'tis to have a lover for her foe.  
The city conquer'd I shall hope to find  
Thy father Caleb, like his Achfah, kind.

May all the host of heav'n attend him round,  
And angels waft him back with conquest crown'd.

*Yesh.* To give command, prerogative is thine;  
And humbly to obey, the duty's mine.

A I R.

**CHORUS.**

**[Exeunt.]**

## Othniel and Achsah.

*Orb.* In these blest scenes, where constant pleasure reigns,

**Act.** O Othniel, Othniel.

*Orb.* 'Tis my name I hear!

Othniel, in melting accents strikes my ear.

A I R.

*Orb.* 'Tis Achsah's voice; who, but that heav'nly fair,  
Could breathe so tender, and so sweet a pray'r?

*Act.* But see! he comes—he heard, and knows  
his pow'r.

*Oib.* Hail! lovely virgin of this blissful bow'r;  
How sweet the music of thy tuneful tongue

*Act.* These praises to the feather'd choir belong.

**AIR**

Hark ! 'tis the linner, and the thrush ;  
In dulcet notes

They pour their throats,

And wake the morn on ev'ry bush :

From morn to eve they chaunt their love,  
And fill with melody the grove.

*Oib.* O Achsah, form'd for ev'ry chaste delight,  
T'inspire the virtuous thought, and charm the sight;  
Thy presence gilds this variegated scene,  
To the green olive adds a brighter green;  
White to the lily, blushes to the rose,  
With deeper and the rich pomegranate glows;

## PART II.

SCENE, before Jericho.

Joshua, Caleb, Othniel, Achish, High-Priest,  
Chiefs, Elders, &c. *The Priests bearing the Ark  
of the Covenant.*

*Josh.* **T**HIS well; six times the Lord hath been  
obey'd;

Low in the dust the town shall soon be laid.  
Now the seventh sun the gilded domes adorns,  
Sound the shrill trumpets, shout and blow the horns.  
[A solemn march during the circumvention of the Ark,

C H O R U S.

[The walls of Jericho falling.]

Glory to God! the strong-cemented walls,  
The tott'ring tow'rs, the pond'rous ruin falls:  
The nations tremble at the dreadful sound,  
Heav'n thunders, tempests roar, and groans the  
ground.

*Cal.* The walls are levell'd, pour the chosen bands,  
With hostile gore imbrue your thirsty hands;  
Set palaces and temples in a blaze,  
Sap the foundations, and the bulwarks raze:  
But oh! remember, in the bloody strife,  
To spare the hospitable Rahab's Life.

A I R.

See, the raging flames arise!  
Hear, the dismal groans and cries!  
The fatal day of wrath is come,  
Proud Jericho hath met her doom.

**A I R.**

*Act.* To vanity, and earthly pride,  
How short a date is giv'n!  
The firmest rock, that shall abide,  
Is confidence in Heav'n. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE II. *The Passover.*

Joshua, Caleb, Othniel, Achishah, High-Priest,  
Priests, Chiefs, Elders, and a full Assembly of  
the People.

*Yesh.* Let all the seed of Abrah'm now prepare  
To celebrate this feast, with pious care.  
Ages unborn, by this example led,  
Shall bleed the lamb, and eat unlcaven'd bread.

## C H O R U S.

Almighty ruler of the skies,  
Accept our vows, and sacrifice;  
Thy mercy did with Israel dwell,  
When the first-born of Egypt fell.  
What mighty wonders did the Lord  
At the Red-sea to us afford!  
He made our passage on dry ground,  
While Pharaoh, and his host were drown'd.  
He through the dreary desert led,  
He slack'd our thirst, with manna fed:  
His glory did on Sinai shine,  
When we receiv'd the law divine.

## S C E N E III.

*Joshua and Caleb.*

*Cal.* Joshua, the men dispatch'd by thee to learn  
The strength of Ai, and country to discern;  
Elate with pride, deluded by success,  
Despis'd their pow'r, and made the people less.  
Easy of faith, we trust what they relate,  
And now the hasty error find too late;  
Our troops with shame repuls'd!—Oh fatal day!  
Hark! Israel mourns; triumphs the King of Ai.

*Chorus of the defeated Israelites.*

How soon our tow'ring hopes are cross'd!  
The foe prevails, our glory's lost!  
Again shall Israel bondage know,  
Oh! sheath the sword, unbend the bow.

*Yosb.* Whence this dejection? rouse your coward hearts;

Let courage edge your swords, and point your darts;  
Remember Jericho! and sure success  
Shall crown your arms: the Lord our cause will bless.

## A I R.

With redoubled rage return,  
Ev'ry breast with fury burn;  
The heathen nations soon shall feel  
The force of your avenging steel.

## C H O R U S.

We with redoubled rage return,  
All our breasts with fury burn:  
The heathen nations soon shall feel  
The force of our avenging steel. [*Exeunt.*]

## S C E N E IV.

*Othniel and Achsah.*

*Orb.* Now give the army rest; let war, awhile,  
Smooth his rough front, and wear a cheerful smile:  
The interval, if Achsah but approve,  
I'll consecrate to virtue, and to love.

## A I R.

Heroes, when with glory burning,  
All their toil with pleasure bear;  
And believe, to love returning,  
Laurel wreaths beneath their care:  
War to hardy deeds invites,  
Love the danger well requites.

*Ach.* Indulgent heav'n hath heard my virgin  
prayer,  
And made my Othniel it's peculiar care:  
When he is absent, sighs my hours employ,  
When he returns, transporting is the joy.

## A I R.

As cheers the sun the tender flow'r,  
That sinks beneath a falling show'r,  
And rears it's drooping head;  
Thy presence doth my pow'rs controul,  
Darts joy, like lightning, through my soul  
And all my cares are fled.

## S C E N E V.

*Cal.* Sure I'm deceiv'd!—with sorrow I be-  
hold—

Let not this folly in the camp be told;  
Now all the youth of Israel are in arms,  
That Othniel, lost in dalliance, shuns th' alarms.  
*Orb.* Oh! why will Caleb my fixt passion blame?  
This spotless object justifies my flame.

*Cal.* No more—it wounds thy fame—daughter,  
retire— *Exit Achsah.*

## S C E N E VI.

*Caleb and Othniel.*

*Cal.* Oh! let thy bosom glow with warlike fire.  
Thou know'st what craft the men of Gibeon us'd  
To obtain their league, which else hast been refus'd:  
Soon did that treaty thro' the heathen ring;  
Adonizedeck of Jerus'lem king,  
With the confederate pow'rs of most renown,  
Have sworn to ruin the revolted town.  
Firm to our faith, it never shall be said,  
That our allies, in vain, implor'd our aid.

*Orb.* Perish the thought! while honour hath a  
name,  
Israel or Gibeon's cause is still the same.

## A I R.

Nations, who, in future story,  
Wou'd recorded be with glory;  
Let them thro' the world proclaim,  
Friendship is the road to fame. [*Exeunt.*]

## S C E N E VII.

*Joshua, Caleb, Othniel, Chiefs, Elders, &c. The  
armies of the Israelites and Canaanites prepared  
for battle*

*Yosb.* Brethren and friends, what joy this day  
imparts,

To meet such brave, such firm united hearts?  
What tho' the tyrants, an unnumber'd host,  
Their strength in horse, and iron chariots boast?  
Now shines the sun, that fixeth Canaan's doom:  
Trust in the Lord, and you shall overcome.

[*Warlike symphony. The armies engage.*]

*Cal.* Thus far our cause is favour'd by the Lord!  
Advance, pursue; Jehovah is the word!

[*Symphony repeated.*]

## R E C I T A T I V E.

*Yosb.* Oh! thou bright orb, great ruler of the  
day!

Stop thy swift course, and over Gibeon stay.  
And Oh! thou milder lamp of light, the moon,  
Stand still, prolong thy beams in Ajalon.

## C H O R U S.

Behold! the list'ning sun the voice obeys,  
And in mid heav'n his rapid motion stays.  
Before our arms the scatter'd nations fly.  
Breathless they pant, they yield, they fall,  
they die.



## P A R T III.

Joshua, Caleb, Othniel, Achsah, &amp;c.

## C H O R U S.

**H**AIL! mighty Joshua, hail! thy name  
 Shall soar into immortal fame,  
 Our children's children shall rehearse  
 Thy deeds in never-dying verse,  
 And grateful marbles raise to thee,  
 Great guardian of our liberty!

## A I R.

*Act.* Happy, O thrice happy we,  
 Who enjoy sweet liberty!

To your sons this gem secure,  
 As bright, as ample, and as pure.

*Josh.* Caleb, for holy Eleazar send,  
 And bid the chiefs of Israel all attend,  
 To execute th' Almighty's great command,  
 And lot among the tribes the conquer'd land.

*Cal.* With thee, great leader, when Jephunneh's son

Was sent to view the nations thou hast won;  
 Hebron obtain'd, we all it's produce fought.

Thick-cluster'd grapes, figs, and pomegranates  
 brought;

The men, their prowess carefully survey'd,  
 And deem'd the conquest easy to be made.  
 Here wou'd I stop—but oh, unhappy fate!  
 The tim'rous spies a different tale relate,  
 Increas'd the danger, multiply'd the foe,  
 And fill'd some dastard souls with panic woe.

*Josh.* Firm as a rock, when billows lash it's side,  
 Thou didst persist, and all their threats defy'd.  
 The men appear'd; said Moses, man of God,  
 Caleb, the land, whereon thy feet have trod,  
 Mark what I say! for 'tis the will of heav'n,  
 Shall be to thee, and to thy children giv'n.  
 Behold! the promise of the man divine  
 I ratify, and Hebron now is thine.

*Cal.* My cup is full; how blest is this decree!  
 How can my thanks suffice the Lord, and thee!

## A I R.

Shall in Mamre's fertile plain,  
 The remnant of my days remain?  
 And is it giv'n to me, to have  
 A place with Abraham in the grave?  
 For all these mercies I will sing  
 Eternal praise to heav'n's High King.

*Chorus of the tribe of Judah.*

For all these mercies we will sing  
 Eternal praise to heav'n's High King.

*Orb.* O Caleb, fear'd by foes, by friends ador'd,  
 Well have we paid this tribute to thy sword;  
 But still, to make this heritage complete,  
 Debir remains; Debir the giant's seat.

*Cal.* Worn out in war, I find my strength decline,  
 Counsel alone, the gift of age, is mine.

Is there a warrior, willing to pursue  
 The conquest, and that stubborn town subdue?  
 For him, for him, I amply will provide,  
 And to crown all, Achsah shall be his bride.

*Orb.* Glorious reward! the task be mine alone;  
 Transporting thought! Caleb, the town's thy own.

## A I R.

Place danger around me,  
 The storm I'll despise;  
 What arm shall confound me,  
 When Achsah's the prize?

*Exit.*

## S C E N E II.

Joshua, Caleb, Achsah, &amp;c.

## C H O R U S.

Father of mercy, hear the pray'r we make,  
 And save the hero for his country's sake!

*Josh.* In bloom of youth, this stripling hath achiev'd

What scarce in future times shall be believ'd.  
 Mankind no sooner did pronounce his name,  
 But he stood foremost in the rolls of fame:  
 Tyrants he humbled, with the world's applause,  
 And sav'd his country's liberty, and laws.

*Chorus of Youngs.*

See, the conqu'ring hero comes!  
 Sound the trumpets, beat the drums;  
 Sports prepare, the laurel bring,  
 Songs of triumph to him sing.

*Chorus of Virgins.*

See the godlike youth advance!  
 Breathe the flutes, and lead the dance;  
 Myrtle wreaths, and roses twine,  
 To deck the hero's brow divine.

*Full Chorus.*

## S C E N E the last.

To them Othniel.

*Cal.* Welcome! my son, my Othniel, good and great!

The ornament and champion of the state.  
 Take thy reward, the noblest Heav'n can raise,  
 And lasting love adorn your happy days!

*Orb.* What tongue can utter, or what heart conceive,

The joy with which this blessing I receive?

*Act.* Blest be the Pow'r, that kept thee safe from harms!

Blest be the Pow'r, that gave thee to my arms!

## A I R.

Oh! had I Jubal's sacred lyre,  
 Or Miriam's tuneful voice!  
 To sounds like his I wou'd aspire,  
 In songs like her's rejoice:  
 My humble strains but faintly show,  
 How much to Heav'n and thee I owe.

*Orb.* While life shall last, each moment we'll im-  
 In equal gratitude, and mutual love. [*prove*]

## D U E T.

*Orb.* O peerless maid, with beauty blest,  
 Of ev'ry pleasing charm possess;  
 As first in virtue thou art deem'd,  
 For truth thou art no less esteem'd.

*Act.* O gen'rous youth, whom virtue fires,  
 And love of liberty inspires;  
 As first in valour thou art deem'd,  
 For truth thou art no less esteem'd.

*Cal.* While lawless tyrants, with ambition blind  
 Mock solemn faith, waste worlds, and thin man-  
 kind;

Israel can boast a leader just and brave,  
 A friend to freedom, and ordain'd to save.

Thus blest'd, to Heav'n your voices raise,  
 In songs of thanks, and hymns of praise.

## C H O R U S.

The great Jehovah is our awful theme,  
 Sublime in majesty, in pow'r supreme.

*Hallelujah*

